ABSTACT

The *Rh* content by percentage in an *HC* absorbent catalytic converter provided in an exhaust pipe is greater than the *Rh* content by percentage in an upstream three-way catalyst. In this way, even when *HC* which has been temporarily absorbed is emitted in an atmosphere and the exhaust gas becomes rich, the *HC* absorbent catalytic converter displays improved oxidization and removal of *HC* due to the high content by percentage of *Rh* which has a high *HC* conversion ratio in rich atmospheres. There is no necessity to control the air-fuel ratio to a strongly lean ratio and so *HC* removal can be improved while maintaining suppression of NO_x emissions.